

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A reactive hot melt composition in the form of free-flowing pellets, the composition comprising:

a cross-linkable resin including at least one copolymer of ethylene with an ethylenically unsaturated monomer, the resin including one or more of an ethylene-acrylic acid copolymer, an ethylene-methacrylic acid copolymer, and an ethylene-acrylic acid-methacrylic acid terpolymer;

from about 10 to about 30 percent based on the total weight of the composition, of an adhesion promoter for providing adhesive properties to the composition at temperatures of about 50 to about 100°C, wherein the adhesion promoter comprises at least one of a plasticizer and a tackifier;

a free radical cross-linking initiator having a 1 hour half-life temperature of from about 110°C to about 170°C; and

a foaming agent;

wherein the composition is such that it can be melted and extruded on to a substrate at a temperature of from about 90°C to about 120°C without curing, and can be cured at a temperature of from about 120°C to about 200°C.

2. (Original) A composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the said resin constitutes from about 37 to about 60 percent based on the total weight of the composition,

Claim 3 (Cancelled).

4. (Original) A composition as claimed in Claim 1, which also comprises from about 10 to about 40 percent based on the total weight of the composition, of a filler.

5. (Original) A composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein one or more of ethylene-acrylic acid copolymer, ethylene-methacrylic acid copolymer, and

ethylene-acrylic acid-methacrylic acid terpolymer is present in an amount of from about 10 to about 40 percent based on the weight of the total composition.

6. (Original) A composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the free radical cross-linking initiator is a peroxide.

7. (Original) A composition as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the adhesion promoter comprises both a plasticizer and a tackifier.

8. (Original) A composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the resin comprises one or more of a terpolymer containing acrylate and/or methacrylate units, a maleic anhydride grafted elastomer, an ethylene-acrylate-glycidyl methacrylate polymer, an ethylene-acrylate-maleic anhydride polymer, an ethylene-vinyl acetate-maleic anhydride polymer, an ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer, an ethylene-methylacrylic ester copolymer, an ethylene-ethylacrylic ester copolymer, a ethylene-butylacrylic ester copolymer and a rubber.

9. (Original) A composition as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer is present in an amount of from about 5 to about 20 percent, based on the total weight of the composition.

10. (Original) A composition as claimed in Claim 8, wherein one or more of the methacrylate- and acrylate-containing copolymers or terpolymers is present in a total amount of up to about 30 percent, based on the total weight of the composition.

11. (Original) A composition as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the rubber is present in an amount of up to about 30 percent by weight, based on the total composition.

12. (Original) A composition as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising an oil.

13. (Original) A composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the foaming agent is present in an amount of from about 0.1 percent to about 4 percent by weight, based on the total composition.

14. (Original) A composition as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the composition expands from about 150 to about 250 percent on curing.

15. (Currently Amended) A reactive hot melt composition in the form of free-flowing pellets, the composition comprising:

- a) from about 37 to about 60 percent based on the total weight of the composition of a cross-linkable resin including at least one copolymer of ethylene with an ethylenically unsaturated monomer;
- b) from about 10 to about 30 percent based on the total weight of the composition of an adhesion promoter for providing adhesive properties to the composition at temperatures of from about 50°C to about 100°C, wherein the adhesion promoter comprises at least one of a plasticizer and a tackifier;
- c) from about 0.5 to about 3 percent based on the total weight of the composition of a free radical crosslinking initiator having a 1 hour half-life temperature of from about 110°C to 170°C; and
- d) from about 10 to about 40 percent based on the total weight of the composition of a filler; wherein component a) includes one or more of an ethylene-acrylic acid copolymer, an ethylene-methacrylic acid copolymer, and an ethylene-acrylic acid-methacrylic acid terpolymer, and
- e) from about 0.1 to about 4 percent based on the total weight of the composition of a foaming agent;

wherein the composition is such that it can be melted and extruded on to a substrate at a temperature of from about 90°C to about 120°C without curing, and can be cured at a temperature of from about 120°C to about 200°C.

16. (Currently Amended) A reactive hot melt composition in the form of free-flowing pellets, the composition comprising:

a cross-linkable resin including at least one copolymer of ethylene with an ethylenically unsaturated monomer, the resin including one or more of an ethylene-acrylic acid copolymer, an ethylene-methacrylic acid copolymer, and an ethylene-acrylic acid-methacrylic acid terpolymer;

from about 10 to about 30 percent based on the total weight of the composition, of an adhesion promoter for providing adhesive properties to the composition at temperatures of about 50°C to about 100°C, wherein the adhesion promoter comprises at least one of a plasticizer and a tackifier;

a free radical crosslinking initiator having a 1 hour half-life temperature of from about 110 to about 170°C; and

a filler;

wherein the composition is such that it can be melted and extruded on to a substrate at a temperature of from about 90°C to about 120°C without curing, and can be cured at a temperature of from about 120°C to about 200°C.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a paelletized reactive hot melt composition adhesive composition as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 15, comprising:

compounding the components of the composition; and

paelletizing the resulting composition to produce a dry free flowing material.

18. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 16~~7~~, wherein the components are compounded at a temperature of less than about 150°C.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of adhering a first component to a second component, comprising the steps of melting a composition as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 15 at about 90°C to about 120°C, contacting the first and second components with the melted composition; and applying heat to cure the composition at a temperature of about 120°C to about 200°C.

20. (New) A composition according to Claim 7 wherein the tackifier is present in an amount of about 7 to about 21 percent and the plasticizer is present in an amount of about 2 to about 7 percent by weight based on the total composition.

21. (New) A composition according to Claim 20 wherein the tackifier is a hydrocarbon resin.

22. (New) A composition according to Claim 21 which cures at a temperature of from about 140°C to about 200°C.

23. (New) A composition according to Claim 16 wherein the adhesion promoter comprises both a plasticizer and a tackifier.

24. (New) A composition according to Claim 23 wherein the tackifier is present in an amount of about 7 to about 21 percent and the plasticizer is present in an amount of about 2 to about 7 percent by weight based on the total composition.

25. (New) A composition according to Claim 24 wherein the tackifier is a hydrocarbon resin.

26. (New) A composition according to Claim 25 which cures at a temperature of from about 140°C to about 200°C.

27. (New) A method according to Claim 19 wherein the composition is cured at about 140°C to about 200°C.

28. (New) A method of reducing vibration of vehicle parts comprising extruding a composition according to Claim 1 into the space between the reinforcing structure of a vehicle part and the outer skin panels of the part and thereafter curing the extruded composition.

29. (New) A method according to Claim 28 wherein the composition is extruded at about 90°C to about 120°C wherein the composition does not cure and thereafter curing the composition at about 120°C to about 200°C.

30. (New) A method according to Claim 29 wherein the composition is cured at about 140°C to about 200°C.

31. (New) A method of sealing a seam in a vehicle comprising extruding a composition according to Claim 16 along a seam in a vehicle and thereafter curing the composition.

32. (New) A method according to Claim 31 wherein the composition is extruded at about 90°C to about 120°C wherein the composition does not cure and thereafter curing the composition at about 120°C to about 200°C.

33. (New) A method according to Claim 32 wherein the composition is cured at about 140°C to about 200°C.